



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO
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Ser N097/01342
13 Dec 01

Dear Colleagues,

Sacred scriptures teach us that God is active in the lives of His people. I believe the Lord is active today—in the experiences of our Nation, our Navy, and our Corps. In a recent Chief of Chaplains staff morning devotion, Psalm 76 shaped our prayers. Here the Psalmist says, "You are resplendent with light, more majestic than mountains rich with game." We talked about how majestic God is, and how infrequently we sense His majesty. The truth is, God's majesty can still be found in all our lives.

I perceive that majesty in your creative programs. Since September 11, you have responded magnificently to new challenges. Let me give a couple of examples: at CREDO Hawaii, a program called DEFUSE (Dispute Eliminating Freedoms Utilizing Self Empowerment) has been created to help Sailors and Marines address the issues of assault, terrorism, grief, and death. CREDO Pacific Northwest is developing a program with base chapel communities to teach "Survival Skills for Healthy Families."

This parallel focus on the needs of operational forces and the needs of families appears in other initiatives as well. We continue making progress in realigning assets to improve operational forces ministry on the one hand, while we identify chaplain and RP requirements to support family readiness. This double effort should come as no surprise. Two of the priorities of our Strategic Plan address these concerns.

God gives us opportunities to manifest His majesty and bless those we serve. Make the most of the new challenges by connecting to that majesty within you. Be creative. Think "outside-the-box." Build on past programs by restructuring them in light of the new threats faced by our service members and families. It is our great gift as God's workers to reflect His majesty toward others in need. The divine power is there for the asking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B. C. Black".

BARRY C. BLACK
Rear Admiral, CHC, U.S. Navy
Chief of Navy Chaplains